

From: Robert Wheat
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/14/02 9:39am
Subject: Microsoft settlement

January 11, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

As a software developer, I am writing to voice my opinions on the settlement between the Department of Justice and Microsoft Corporation. I want you all to know that I support the settlement that has been negotiated with Microsoft.

It is my belief that the only reason the Justice Department is in the middle of this is due to other competitors' inadequacies and complaining (we are starting to call it - the software complaint lobby - if you can't sell it then go complain to your congressman). When Lotus was suing everyone for similar spreadsheet programs, we all thought - hire more developers - not lawyers. Make your product better to compete with the competition. That is what I do all day long. Where is Lotus today?

I believe the products that Microsoft develops are the best in the business. It is the job of the competition to improve their products in order to be successful as well. It is my understanding that this settlement was reached after extensive negotiations with a court appointed mediator. As I understand it, Microsoft is not getting off that easy. They are required to make specific changes due to the settlement. For example, Microsoft has agreed to document and disclose even more interfaces that are internal to the Windows' operating system products for use by its competitors.

I urge that no further action be taken against Microsoft. We all want to get on with the next generation - not the last generation software.

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